A1

inserting items into the enclosure without moving the door mechanism into the opened position. In another version the aperture is defined in a door of the safe.

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*In the Description section, please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2 line 29 and ending on page 3, line 12, and replace with the following paragraph:*

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A2

FIGS. 1-2 show perspectives view of an example embodiment of a safe 10 according to the present invention for securely storing valuables therein. The safe 10 comprises a housing 12 defining an enclosure 14, with an access-opening 16 providing access to the interior of the housing 12 for storing objects such as valuables. The housing 12 includes side walls 18, top wall 20, bottom wall 22 and rear wall 24, and said access-opening 16 and a door mechanism including one or more doors form a front wall 26 of the safe 10. Preferably, the door mechanism includes two doors 28L and 28R as shown, wherein the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12 around the opening 16 using hinges 30 as shown in FIGS. 2 and 4. The hinges 30 are selected, and the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12 via the hinges 30, such that when the doors 28L, 28R are closed, the hinges 30 are not visible (FIG. 1). This provides a flush external surface for the safe 10 where the doors 28L, 28R are attached to the housing 12, and prevents removal of the doors 28L, 28R by manipulating the hinges 30 when the doors 28L, 28R are closed.

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*In the Description section, please delete the last paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, and ending on page 4, line 3, and replace with the following paragraph:*

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A3

The safe 10 includes a locking mechanism for locking the doors 28R, 28L closed. In one example, the right hand (second) door 28R traps the left hand (first) door 28L when closed, if the left hand door 28L is

closed first. For example, the left hand door 28L can include a door stop lip 32 extending from an edge of the door 28L, whereby the right hand door 28R traps the left door 28L as shown in FIG. 4. In this embodiment, the right hand door 28R is controlled in its opening and closing using a padlock 34 inserted through a member such as steel loop 36 that is welded to the inside of the housing 12 and projects through a breach 38 in the right hand door 28R, wherein the padlock can be placed through the hoop 36, preventing the doors 28L, 28R from being opened without removing the padlock. In this example, the hoop 36 is attached to a divider 44 secured inside the housing 12. Other locking mechanisms for the safe 10 are possible (e.g., combination lock) and contemplated by the present invention.

A3

*In the Description section, please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 5 and ending on page 4, line 15, and replace with the following paragraph:*

A4

The right hand door 28R includes a recessed area 40 on the face of the right hand door 28R, wherein the breach 38 is defined in the recess 40 to provide an area for the padlock and a flush face to the safe. The hoop 36 projects through the breach 38 into the recessed area 40 (FIG. 4). As shown in FIG. 3, the doors 28L, 28R can be disassembled from the housing 12, when the doors 28L, 28R are open, by means of hand tools. This allows repairing or changing the doors 28L, 28R. Each door 28L, 28R is about e.g. 8" high x 7.5" wide. The recessed area 40 on the right hand door 28R can be rectangular, about e.g. 4" high x 3" wide x 0.5" deep. The breach 38 in the recessed area 40 can be about e.g. 1" from top of the recess 40 and about 1" wide. The housing 12 further includes door lips 43 protruding from the opening 15, and recessed into the housing by e.g. 0.5 inches", as door stops when the doors 28L, 28R are closed.

*In the Description section, please delete the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 17 and ending on page 4, line 30, and replace with the following paragraph:*

A5

In another aspect of the present invention, the safe 10 further includes at least one aperture 42 for inserting items into the safe 10 without using said access-opening 16. As such, the aperture 42 can be used to insert items into the safe 10 without moving the doors 28L, 28R into the opened position. In one example shown in FIG. 5, the aperture 42 comprises a narrow horizontal slot defined in the right hand door 28R, wherein the slot is about e.g. 1/4" high and 5" wide near the upper portion of the face of a door 28L or 28R. Other shapes, sizes and locations for the aperture 42 are possible and contemplated by the present invention. In another example shown in FIG. 3, the aperture 42 is defined in the housing 12, such as e.g. a side wall 18 of the housing 12. Preferably, the slot 42 is shaped and sized to allow inserting items into the safe 10, while preventing access to the interior 14 of the safe 10 for removing items therefrom when the safe doors 28L, 28R are closed. For example, the slot 42 can be used to insert items such as money, credit cards, mail, etc. into the safe 10 without opening the safe doors 28L, 28R.

*In the Description section, please delete the paragraph beginning on page 5 line 13 and ending on page 5, line 22, and replace with the following paragraph:*

A6

As shown by example in FIG. 3, dividers/shelves 44, 50 are used to divide the interior space 14 in the safe into different storage area or compartments 52L, 52R, 52B. In the example of FIG. 3, dividers 44, 50 secured to the housing 12 (e.g., screwed) are used to define three storage areas 52L, 52R, 52B, wherein a horizontal shelf 44 divides the interior 14 in half into lower/bottom storage area 52B, and an upper area